

GLOSSARY

ACTIVITY

noun (plural activities) 1. the state of action; doing.
2. the quality of acting promptly; energy.
3. a specific deed or action; sphere of action.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

The capacity of a system to adapt to its changing environment. It is applied to ecological systems and human social systems.

AGRO-ECOSYSTEM

A model for the functioning of an agricultural system, with all inputs and outputs.

ASPIRATION

noun 1. The act of aspiring; lofty or ambitious desire.
2. Something aspired to; an ambition.

ASSET

A useful thing or quality; something that has a value. In NRM, assets are classified as human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital.

BASELINE DATA

Measurement of the resource condition, attitudes and behaviours at the beginning. Setting targets requires the identification of a baseline – the level against which progress will be measured.

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

An area with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is under threat from human impact.

BIOREGION

An area of land which shares similar environmental, physical and climatic conditions and which contains characteristic ecosystems of plants and animals. Tasmania is divided into nine land bioregions and nine coastal and marine bioregions.

CAPACITY

The knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources needed to address natural resource management challenges. Community capacity building is about putting in place the necessary support mechanisms to achieve effective natural resource management.

CAPACITY BUILDING

An activity or activities designed to enhance natural resource management planning and management. This includes providing stakeholders with access to data and information; enhancing knowledge, skills

and abilities; research and development; and market-based approaches.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

The removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (such as oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes.

CATCHMENT

The land area which drains into a particular watercourse (river, stream or creek) and which is a natural topographic division of the landscape. It includes 'end of catchment', that is, where catchments join other rivers or estuaries.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Mitigation involves acting to minimise the effects of global warming. Most often, mitigations involve reductions in the concentrations of greenhouse gases, either by reducing their sources or by increasing their sinks.

COASTAL

Any part of the region within sight of, or directly impacted by, the sea, or potentially affected by coastal flooding or sea-level rise. The 'coastal zone' will therefore vary, depending on local topography.

COMMUNITY

Community is used as an inclusive term to include everyone in the South Coast NRM region, in both their public and their private capacity. Community will therefore include State and local governments, industries and public land managers, as well as individuals and groups sharing an interest in natural resource management.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Community capacity is the combination of building people's commitment and skills to build on strengths within the community to address problems and react to potential opportunities.

ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES

The biological, chemical and physical processes that take place within an ecosystem (e.g. carbon cycling, nutrient assimilation).

ECOSYSTEM

A dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

ENDEMIC

Confined to a particular area. For example, a South Coast endemic species is found only in the South Coast region of WA.

ESTUARINE

A semi-enclosed or periodically closed coastal body of water in which the aquatic environment is affected by the physical and chemical characteristics of both fluvial (freshwater) and marine systems.

EVALUATION

The systematic review of a program, project, strategy or other activity to determine whether it is working as intended, what impacts it is producing, whether it is being implemented cost-effectively, and the reasons why it is producing the identified impacts. Evaluation involves collecting and analysing information to make judgements and recommendations for future action.

GEODIVERSITY

The range or diversity of geological (bedrock), geomorphological (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes.

GOAL

noun 1. that towards which effort is directed; aim or end.

INDICATOR

A measurement that can be repeated over time to track changes in the condition of a resource or environmental asset, a management practice, or a social or economic process. A surrogate indicator is a measure developed to monitor the performance of an activity where asset condition monitoring is non-existent or not appropriate.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management is complex, spanning multiple issues. An integrated approach addresses natural resource management issues holistically, with coordination across different agencies and organisations, and across different land tenures and geographical areas. Integrated natural resource management should deliver more coordinated, efficient and effective outcomes.

LAND USE

Land use describes the activities that occur on land, such as agriculture, energy production, human settlements, transport, forestry, mining and conservation.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Activities to be undertaken to improve the condition of the region's natural resources.

MARINE

Areas where the environment is more strongly influenced by the oceans than by the main landmass of Tasmania and its rivers. Mostly refers to the seabed, open waters and more remote offshore islands.

MONITORING

The regular gathering of information in a consistent manner. It may be to keep track of and observe the progress of a project or program. Environmental monitoring is a valuable tool to determine whether the condition of a resource is stable, improving or declining.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The management of any activity that uses, develops or conserves 'natural resources'.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The water, land (including soils), air, plants, animals and microorganisms, and the systems they form.

OUTCOME

noun that which results from something; the consequence or issue. The result or impact of a number of management outcomes.

PARTICIPATION

As a concept, participation refers to the number of people engaged in an activity (e.g. public meetings, local governance, landcare groups, adult education, employment).

PERI-URBAN

Immediately adjoining an urban area; between the suburbs and the countryside. City fringe (i.e. low density or semi urban).

PLANTATIONS

Intensively managed trees, of either native forest or exotic species, created by the regular placements of seedlings or seed.

QUADRUPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

Quadruple bottom line reporting uses the idea that the condition of economic, social, environmental and wellbeing/health/spiritual factors should be taken into account. This allows for the more holistic consideration of the well being of systems.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Any source of energy that can be used without depleting its reserves.

RESERVES

Areas of protected landscapes or ecosystems. Reserves can be marine or terrestrial, informal or formal (dedicated statutory reserves).

RESILIENCE

The ability to absorb the impacts of disturbances, or the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. Resilience can refer to natural systems (i.e. ecosystems or individual species) and human social systems (e.g. local salinity communities).

SALINITY

The accumulation of excessive salts in land and water at sufficient levels to have an impact on human and natural assets (plants, animals, aquatic ecosystems, water supplies, agriculture or infrastructure).

SECTOR

A specific section of the community, such as State government, local government, industry, public land managers, the 'care' community, the Aboriginal community.

STAKEHOLDERS

Agencies, organisations and individuals responsible for managing the region's natural resources.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:

- sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations
- safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems
- avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

TARGET

A "target" is defined as an agreed endpoint, desired outcome or a specific level of performance to be achieved within a specified period of time, for a particular objective. Targets are policy tools, but have a scientific base. They are the measurable or quantifiable component towards achieving desired policy visions, objectives and goals (which in themselves tend to be qualitative, conceptual or general statements of intent).

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

Triple bottom line reporting considers the condition of economic, social and environmental factors.

THREATENED SPECIES

Flora or fauna that is listed in *Wildlife Conservation Act EPBC Act*. That is, species or subspecies listed as extinct, endangered, vulnerable or rare.

VULNERABLE

Where threatening processes have caused loss or significant decline in species that play a major role within the ecosystem; or a significant alteration to ecosystem processes.